

Kean University – Master in Social Work Program

Summary of Assessment of Education Policy and Accreditation Standards Core Competencies
2014-2015 Academic Year

CSWE Educational Competency	Student Self Assessment	Field/Practice Evaluation	Total Score
2.1.1 - Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly	89%	92%	90%
2.1.2 - Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice	83%	87%	85%
2.1.3 - Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments	88%	83%	86 %
2.1.4 - Engage in diversity and difference in practice	86%	88%	87 %
2.1.5 - Advance human rights and social and economic justice	83%	81%	82 %
2.1.6 - Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research	75%	83%	79 %
2.1.7 - Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment	84%	81%	82 %
2.1.8 - Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services	81%	76%	78 %
2.1.9 - Respond to contexts that shape practice	82%	81%	81 %
2.1.10a - Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities	91%	88%	89 %
2.1.10b - Assess with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities	86%	88%	87 %
2.1.10c - Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities	84%	89%	87 %
2.1.10d - Evaluate work with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities	81%	83%	82 %

In accordance with the standards set by the CSWE (4.0.2; 4.0.5), the MSW program at Kean University completes an annual evaluation of students' attainment of core competencies by measuring foundational and advanced/concentration professional practice behaviors. For this, students are assessed on their mastery of thirteen core competencies that they are expected to attain during their education in the MSW program.

Methods

The methods used included an electronic professional evaluation and self-efficacy survey. The professional evaluation was provided to field instructors to evaluate student performance of practice behaviors in fieldwork practice. The self-efficacy survey was provided to students in the program to self-assess their mastery/performance of practice behaviors.

Proficiency Target/Benchmark

The proficiency targets (i.e., benchmark) for each competency has been set by the MSW program at 80%. The scores of practice behaviors that are used to measure respective competencies are averaged together to obtain a composite score for each competency. The composite score is compared against the benchmark of 80%.

Interpretation of Findings

The results support the overall achievement of the MSW program goals and objectives. Student survey results exceeded established benchmarks except in one area (i.e., research). The professional evaluation report mean scores in excess of benchmarks except in one area (i.e., policy). The MSW focus group discussed measures, student and field instructor interpretations of measures, and the meaningfulness of the scores. The focus group findings offer keen insights on student attainments, student self-reports, and the competencies they have acquired. A profound commitment to professional, ethical, culturally competent, and comprehensive work with individuals, groups, families, and community is evident.

Program Improvements

Results of the MSW Program assessment are used to inform improvement to the educational program, including such activities as program planning, curriculum improvements, faculty development, as well as reviewing and refining assessment protocol and methods. Program improvements will include: 1) workshop exclusively dedicated to helping students synthesize practice behaviors and fieldwork practice in addition to the current orientation and classroom education; 2) inclusion of capstone project that reinforces research, policy, and advocacy; 3) continued emphasis in the classroom on research and policy practice in relationship to fieldwork; 4) continued education of fieldwork instructors on EPAS with emphasis on policy and research through continuing education programs, Seminar in Field Instruction, and literature.